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FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT



To a Waterfowl---

by William Cullen Bryant

*Whither, 'midst falling dew,
While glow the heavens with the last steps
of day,
Far, through their rosy depths, dost thou pursue
Thy solitary way?*

*Vainly the fowler's eye
Might mark thy distant flight to do thee
wrong,
As, darkly painted on the crimson sky,
Thy figure floats along.*

*Seek'st thou the plashy brink
Of weedy lake, or marge of river wide,
Or where the rocking billows rise and sink
On the chafed ocean's side?*

*There is a Power whose care
Teaches thy way along that pathless coast—
The desert and illimitable air—
Lone wandering, but not lost.*

*All day thy wings have fanned
At that far height, the cold, thin atmosphere,
Yet stoop not weary, to the welcome land,
Though the dark night is near.*

*And soon that toil shall end;
Soon shalt thou find a summer home, and
rest,
And scream among thy fellows; reeds shall bend,
Soon, o'er thy sheltered nest.*

*Thou'rt gone! the abyss of heaven
Hath swallowed up thy form; yet on my
heart
Deeply hath sunk the lesson thou hast given,
And shall not soon depart.*

*He who, from zone to zone,
Guides through the boundless sky thy certain
flight,
In the long way that I must tread alone
Will lead my steps aright.*



MONTANA WILD LIFE

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VOL. 1.

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NO. 6.

Open Season On Chinese Pheasants



T. N. Marlowe

MONTANA'S State Fish and Game Commission, after being appealed to by hundreds of farmers, sportsmen, land-owners and others interested in the wild life of the state, has finally agreed to attempt an experiment and declare a two-day open season on Chinese pheasants. This is the first open season on the multicolored strutters since they were introduced in Mon-

tana by the Commission several years ago and the reaction or threatened slaughter will be watched with keen interest. The Commission, at its meeting at Malta, near Lake Bowdoin, has declared a two-day open season on Chinese pheasants on November 24 and 25, the Saturday and Sunday immediately preceding Thanksgiving. Hence hundreds of Thanksgiving dinners that are now strutting around on long legs in the hedges and fields will be in the pot when Turkey day comes.

Here's what the official minutes of the meeting say of the situation:

The matter of opening certain portions of the state to the hunting of Chinese pheasants was presented, there being several petitions. A discussion ensued as to the number of days, birds, and time of the open season. Letters were read from the sportsmen and clubs in the counties which do not desire an open season on Chinese pheasants. Petitions and letters were then read from those desiring an open season on Chinese pheasants.

Motion by Mr. Marlowe: "I move that we open the season on Chinese pheasants on the 24th and 25th of November, 1928, in the following described territory: All of Big Horn, Yellowstone, Broadwater, Lewis and Clark, Custer and Treasure counties; that portion of Carbon county lying north of Rock Creek river and east of a line running due north and south through the town of Bridger; that portion of Ravalli county lying north of a line running due east and west through the main street of Hamilton; that portion of Missoula county lying south of a line running due east and west through

the town of Lolo; and that portion of Lake county lying south of a line running due east and west through the town of Elmo, save and except that portion of Lake county drained by the Jocko river and its tributaries, and save and except all territories set aside as game preserves within the above described area. The bag limit shall be three male Chinese pheasants per day, and it shall be unlawful for any one person to have more than three of said birds in his possession at any one time." Seconded by Mr. Boyd. Carried.

Those attending the Malta meeting were: T. N. Marlowe, chairman; E. A. Wilson, G. T. Boyd, W. K. Moore, commissioners, and R. H. Hill, secretary. Others present were Field Assistants J. W. Schofield and I. H. Treece; George E. Mushbach; R. E. Bateman; and Deputy Game Warden Harry Conser.

A petition was read from the citizens of Powell county asking that a portion of Powell county, lying south and west of the Deer Lodge river, be closed to the hunting and killing of elk during the 1928 season. A telegram from V. G. Stambaugh of the Deer Lodge Farms Company was read protesting such action. His, however, was the only protest.

Motion by Mr. Boyd: "I move that the portion of Powell county lying south and west of the Deer Lodge river be closed to the hunting and killing of elk during the 1928 season, as petitioned for by the resident property owners and sportsmen of that county." Seconded by Mr. Wilson. Carried.

Mr. Hill read the correspondence which he had with citizens in the Highwood mountains district, relative to making an open season on elk there this season. This matter had been referred to Mr. Boyd for investigation. Mr. Boyd advised that he had conferred with the Forest Service relative to the matter.

Motion by Mr. Boyd: "I move that that portion of Chouteau, Cascade and Judith Basin counties within five miles of the boundaries of the Highwood division of the Jefferson National Forest, save and excepting therefrom all game preserves which might be included in the above described territory, be opened to the hunting and killing of one elk of either sex from the 6th to the 15th of November, 1928, both dates inclusive." Seconded by Mr. Moore. Carried.

Mr. Marlowe then read a petition from the members of the Stevensville

Rod and Gun Club, asking that Ravalli county, except in the Skalkahoe game preserve, be open to the hunting of elk for five days.

Motion by Mr. Marlowe: "I move that Ravalli county be opened to the hunting and shooting of one elk of either sex from November 11th to the 15th, 1928, both dates inclusive, as petitioned for by the sportsmen of that county." Seconded by Mr. Boyd. Carried.

Mr. Hill read a petition and letters from the citizens of Sanders county requesting that the part of Sanders county previously opened by the Commission to the hunting of elk be again opened.

Motion by Mr. Moore: "I move that the following described territory in Sanders county be opened to the shooting of one elk of either sex from the 11th of November to the 15th of November, 1928, both dates inclusive: Beginning at the mouth of Thompson river in Section 18, Township 21 North, Range 28 West, thence following up this stream to the mouth of the West Fork thereof, thence up the West Fork to Mt. Headley, thence along the Vermilion river, Graves creek, Deep creek divide to the Slide Rock mountain, which is at the head of Deep creek, thence down Deep creek to the Clark's Fork river, thence following the north bank of the Clark's Fork river to the mouth of Thompson river, the place of beginning." Seconded by Mr. Boyd. Carried.

Mr. Hill then brought up the matter of the elk herd in the Sun River district, which matter had been carried over from previous meetings. The livestock growers of Chouteau and Augusta had made a resolution to petition the Commission asking that the Sun River elk herd be reduced to 2,500 head. The Commission took no action on the matter, as it is not empowered by law to do so.

Mr. Hill recommended that the Commission incorporate in its fur farming rules and regulations some clause limiting the time that foundation stock must be held before it can be sold.

Motion by Mr. Marlowe: "I move that the holders of fur farming permits be required to keep any foundation stock, captured or enclosed, and the increase therefrom, for a period of at least two (2) years before said stock can be disposed of." Seconded by Mr. Moore. Carried.

Mr. Hill advised the Commission that, although a fur farm license had been

provided by the Fish and Game Department, there was really nothing in the law requiring the same.

Motion by Mr. Marlowe: "I move that all persons, firms, corporations or associations engaged in the business of fur farming or game farming within the State of Montana, operating under the provisions of Section 3777 of the Revised Codes of Montana, be required to take out a license from the State Fish and Game Department, for which a charge of five dollars (\$5.00) per year shall be made." Seconded by Mr. Moore. Carried.

Mr. Hill read a letter from J. M. Bresnahan, manager of the Midland Empire Fair, complimenting the Commission on their fish and game display at the fair, and asking them if they could erect a building for future displays of the Department on the Billings fair grounds. Mr. Hill read his answer thereto, wherein he had stated that "as our exhibit is an attraction to the fair, it seems to me that it would be no more than fair that a building be constructed for this purpose by the fair association."

Motion by Mr. Wilson: "I move that we go on record as supporting the contention of the state game warden relative to the construction of buildings for our fair exhibits at any points in the state." Seconded by Mr. Moore. Carried.

Mr. Hill read the correspondence he had had with J. H. Carmichael of Augusta. Mr. Carmichael had saved an elk from starvation and had taken care of it. He desires to ship the elk to the Everett City Park, Washington, for display.

Motion by Mr. Wilson: "I move that we allow Mr. Carmichael's request." Seconded by Mr. Moore. Carried.

Mr. Marlowe read a letter from C. E. Miller, curator for the museum at Hays, Kansas, State Teachers' College, requesting permit to take a moose from Montana for his museum.

Motion by Mr. Marlowe: "I move that, in view of the scarcity of moose in the State of Montana, and in view of the closed season on the same, the request of Mr. Miller be denied." Seconded by Mr. Boyd. Carried.

Mr. Hill advised that it has been a custom at the camps at Gardiner to serve elk meat at dinner and make a charge for the same, which is a violation. He asked for the sentiment of the Commission on the matter.

Motion by Mr. Marlowe: "I move that it is the sense of the Commission that wherever game of any kind is served at hunting camps, or other places, for which a charge is being made, it is an absolute violation of the law of the State of Montana, and those doing so should be prosecuted." Seconded by Mr. Moore. Carried.

Mr. Hill read a letter from the attorney general relative to the construction of a dam in the bed of a natural stream for the purpose of creating a private fish pond. This letter had been requested by the Commission relative to the request of P. V. Klinke of Fortine for a private pond license. The attorney general's opinion was that a "private pond for commercial purposes cannot be created by damming a natural stream."

Motion by Mr. Moore: "I move that the secretary write Mr. Klinke informing him of the attorney general's opinion." Seconded by Mr. Wilson. Carried.

Mr. Marlowe brought up the matter of expending considerable sums of money on rearing ponds when the easements are only procured for a few years. Discussion ensued as to the advisability of such expenditures.

Motion by Mr. Marlowe: "I move, in the future wherever easements are procured for rearing pond sites, that the easements be procured for a period of at least ten (10) years before the rearing ponds are constructed."

The matter of testing Dickey Lake, near Eureka, to determine the kind of fish that are now in it, and to figure out some method of getting rid of the bull trout that are in the lake, was brought up. It had been tabled at the last meeting.

Motion by Mr. Marlowe: "I move that the game warden or Deputy O'Claire be authorized to seine Dickey Lake with any kind of a suitable seine, for the purpose of ascertaining what kind of fish are in the lake at the present time, and for the further purpose of ascertaining what kind of fish the lake should be stocked with in the future." Seconded by Mr. Moore. Carried.

Mr. Hill requested that Mr. Schofield give his report of the inspection of the proposed rearing pond on the Whitmore property near Augusta. Mr. Whitmore had offered the location to the Commission. Mr. Schofield recommended the building of a rearing pond on this location, and advised that the cost should not exceed \$75.00.

Motion by Mr. Boyd: "I move that the request of Mr. Schofield for a rearing pond on Mr. Whitmore's property be allowed, the cost not to exceed \$75.00, and that Mr. Schofield take care of the matter, securing the necessary easement, etc." Seconded by Mr. Moore. Carried.

Mr. Hill asked Mr. Schofield for his report relative to the petition for the closing of Sweet Grass creek for two years. At the last meeting of the Commission Mr. Schofield was authorized to confer with the members of the Rod and Gun Club at Big Timber relative to closing this creek. He advised that he had been unable to get the necessary people together, so would like to go ahead alone on the investigation.

Motion by Mr. Moore: "I move that Mr. Schofield be advised to investigate the advisability of closing Sweet Grass creek to fishing, alone, and bring up the matter at the next meeting of the Commission." Seconded by Mr. Boyd. Carried.

Mr. Hill asked Dr. Treece if he had heard anything further about the closing of the Upper Fred Burr Lake to fishing. Dr. Treece advised that he had heard nothing further from the company that desired the lake to be closed and that the construction work on the lake had been finished, so the matter was permanently dropped.

A petition from the residents of Lincoln county was read requesting an all-year open fishing season on Bull, Savage, Schoolhouse and Milner Lakes, and the closing of Kilbrennan and Cowles Lakes during the fall spawning

season. The matter had been held over for Dr. Treece's investigation.

Motion by Mr. Marlowe: "I move that ice fishing be allowed in Bull, Savage, Schoolhouse and Milner Lakes in Lincoln county; and that Kilbrennan and Cowles Lakes in Lincoln county to closed to fishing from September 1 to December 1 of each year, in addition to the regular closed season, for spawning purposes." Seconded by Mr. Moore. Carried.

Mr. Hill explained to the Commission that two game law violators had been apprehended in Kalispell (Somers and Broulet) and that the only way a conviction could be secured against them was to bring a witness from a fur house in St. Louis, where the illegal furs had been sent. Mr. Mushbach, U. S. game protector, explained that, although the returns from this one case would not pay for such an expense, if the violators knew that the Commission was practicing stringent methods to secure convictions, they would be less likely to commit violations.

Motion by Mr. Marlowe: "I move that all the evidence in this case be submitted to the county attorney of Flathead county, and if he thinks the conviction can be had, we shall secure the attendance of the witness from St. Louis." Seconded by Mr. Moore. Carried.

Mr. Hill read a telegram which he had received from the Judith River Rod and Gun Club, asking that an extra warden be appointed and assigned to that district during the hunting season to protect the elk herd on the Judith river. In view of the fact that the hunting season is about half over and special wardens for such a short time are rather unsatisfactory, the following order was made:

Motion by Mr. Moore: "I move that Mr. Hill notify Mr. Weaver of the request from the Judith River Rod and Gun Club, and ask him to put in some time there in the next few days, as we have not enough funds to put an extra man in there." Seconded by Mr. Boyd. Carried.

Mr. Hill advised the Commission that he had selected and employed, as a special deputy game warden, subject to the approval of the Commission, Captain J. H. Chartrand of Miles City to take the place left vacant by E. A. Taylor.

Motion by Mr. Marlowe: "I move that Mr. Hill's selection be confirmed." Seconded by Mr. Moore. Carried.

Mr. Hill gave the Commission a statistical report of the finances of the Department—a comparison of receipts and disbursements for 1927 and 1928. He also gave a financial report of the magazine MONTANA WILD LIFE.

Mr. Hill explained the correspondence he had had relative to the re-creation of the Stillwater game preserve.

Motion by Mr. Marlowe: "It appearing to the Commission that heretofore a proper petition has been received by the Fish and Game Commission asking for the creation of a game preserve in Flathead county, known as the Stillwater game preserve, and that a proper hearing, as required by law, has heretofore been held in this matter and that there has been no protest to same, but that the minutes of the Commis-

sion fail to show that the preserve was proclaimed and created by the Commission, the Commission at this time does hereby create and proclaim this preserve, to be known as the Stillwater game preserve. The legal description of the above-mentioned preserve is as follows: Beginning at the meander corner of the right bank of the Flathead river between Sections 26 and 35, 29 North, Range 21 West, thence west between Sections 26 and 35, 27 and 34, 28 and 33, in part about one-fourth miles to the left bank of the Whitefish river, thence following the Whitefish river in a southerly direction through Section 32. Then following the left bank of the same stream through Section 5, southerly and easterly to 28 North, Range 21 West; thence southerly through Section 4 to its confluence with the Stillwater river. Thence following the left bank of the Stillwater river to its confluence with the Flathead river in Section 21, 28 North, Range 21 West; thence northerly following the right bank of the Flathead river through Sections 21 and 16, 15 and 10, 9, 3 and 2, Township 28 North, Range 21 West, to place of beginning, all of which is in Flathead county." Seconded by Mr. Moore. Carried.

Mr. Hill presented a petition from the land owners of the area adjacent to the Waterloo bird preserve, asking that this preserve be reclassified. When the preserve was made, it was declared unlawful to shoot all game birds on the preserve, while the original petition asked that it be unlawful only to shoot upland game birds.

Motion by Mr. Marlowe: "I move that the action of the Commission heretofore taken in creating the Waterloo bird preserve, located in Madison county, be rescinded in this respect: That the bird preserve be created only for the purpose of protecting upland game birds, and that the shooting of other game birds in this preserve be permitted. The legal description of the preserve is: All boundaries north—a line commencing at Parson's bridge, following the main road east to the Parrot canal; south—a line commencing at the Silver Star bridge, following the county road east to the Parrot canal; east—the Parrot canal; west—the Jefferson river." Seconded by Mr. Moore. Carried.

Mr. Hill read a letter from E. R. Swart of Polson asking that the Commission close the portion of South Crow creek in Lake county flowing through his property for one year, in order to save the fish that are in there now and to increase them.

Motion by Mr. Moore: "I move that we close that portion of South Crow creek in Lake county which flows through the property of E. R. Swart of Polson, description of which is: South half, southeast quarter of Section 10; north half, northeast quarter of Section 15, Township 20 North, Range 19, M.M., from November 1st, 1928, through December 31st, 1929." Seconded by Mr. Wilson. Carried. The Commission also asked the secretary to write Mr. Swart thanking him for his cooperation and commending him for same.

Mr. Hill read a petition from the citizens of West Yellowstone, Montana,

asking the Commission to close several streams in Gallatin county to fishing indefinitely.

Motion by Mr. Marlowe: "I move that the petition from the citizens of West Yellowstone be allowed, and that the following streams in Gallatin county be closed to fishing indefinitely for spawning and propagating purposes: Watkins creek from where it flows into the Hebgen dam to its source; the South Fork of the Madison river from where it flows into Hebgen dam to its source and all its tributaries; Cougar creek from where it flows into Duck creek to its source; Duck creek from its source in Gallatin county to where it flows into the Yellowstone National Park; Grayling creek, from where it flows into the Hebgen dam to where it enters the Yellowstone National Park; and Tepee creek from where it enters the Yellowstone National Park to its source, and all its tributaries." Seconded by Mr. Moore. Carried.

Mr. Hill read a petition from the citizens of Golden Valley county wherein they asked the Commission to close Swimming Woman creek, in Golden Valley county, to fishing for two years in view of the fact that the fish life in those waters is nearly depleted by the use of explosives and by excessive fishing.

Motion by Mr. Wilson: "I move that Swimming Woman creek, from its source to its mouth, and all its tributaries, in Golden Valley county, Montana, be closed to fishing from November 1st, 1928, to August 1st, 1930." Seconded by Mr. Boyd. Carried.

The letter asking that Delmo Lake be closed to fishing on account of low water, was read to the Commission. The lake, however, is frozen over now.

Motion by Mr. Marlowe: "I move that, in view of the lateness in season, the petitioners be notified that it is not thought advisable to close Delmo Lake." Seconded by Mr. Moore. Carried.

Mr. Hill again brought up the two petitions requesting the closing of Landers Fork in the Big Blackfoot country.

Motion by Mr. Marlowe: "I move that no action be taken at this time relative to closing Landers Fork, and that the matter be laid on the table." Seconded by Mr. Boyd. Carried.

Mr. Hill read a request from Deputy Game Warden Peasley asking that he be granted a leave of absence, without pay, effective November 1st.

Motion by Mr. Marlowe: "I move that the request of Mr. Peasley be granted, but that he advise us as soon as possible whether or not he intends returning at the end of six months." Seconded by Mr. Moore. Carried.

Mr. Hill presented the minutes of the Game Conference which he attended recently at Livingston to the Commission.

Mr. Hill read the letter and resolution from the Hamilton Sportsmen's Club, which had been held over from the last meeting, relative to the control of the distribution of poisoned bait on public ranges and elsewhere in the State of Montana. Discussion followed as to the laws of Montana concerning poison.

Motion by Mr. Marlowe: "I move that we write the Hamilton Sportsmen's

Club, telling them we are in favor of the resolution, and will do everything we reasonably can to see that the matter is brought up to the legislature at the next session." Seconded by Mr. Moore. Carried.

Mr. Schofield asked the Commission if he might authorize the repair of his Dodge car. It was decided that the matter should be tabled until the next meeting of the Commission.

Dr. Treece presented a request for authorization to purchase materials for an addition to the residence at the Station creek hatchery, the cost of which would be \$382.73. The house as it now is is an adequate residence.

Motion by Mr. Moore: "I move that the expenditure be authorized and that the addition to the house at Station Creek be built." Seconded by Mr. Boyd. Carried.

The chairman called on Mr. Schofield for any matter which he might have for the attention of the Commission. Mr. Schofield suggested that they make a combination garage and workshop at the Great Falls hatchery, as the garage which is there now is not large enough for the truck. The cost of this building would be \$290.00, the work being done by the hatchery employees.

Motion by Mr. Marlowe: "I move that this building at the Great Falls hatchery, a combination workshop and garage, be authorized, to be superintended by Mr. Schofield." Seconded by Mr. Boyd. Carried.

Mr. Schofield also asked that he be authorized to purchase a culvert pipe to replace the flum at the Great Falls hatchery, to carry the water to the ponds, the flume being inadequate.

Motion by Mr. Moore: "I move that Mr. Schofield and Mr. Boyd be instructed to purchase this culvert and install same at the Great Falls hatchery." Seconded by Mr. Wilson. Carried.

Mr. Wilson brought up the matter of different shooting clubs getting leases on the Reynolds sloughs, and not allowing other organizations and sportsmen to use them. It was his expression that it would be commendable if the Commission could buy some public shooting grounds on the Reynolds sloughs.

Motion by Mr. Marlowe: "I move that Mr. Wilson be authorized to investigate these matters whenever possible and find out what shooting privileges and club-house sites could be obtained." Seconded by Mr. Boyd. Carried.

Dr. Treece advised the Commission that a hailstorm had ruined the roof of the Ronan hatchery, it being merely a rubberized roof.

Motion by Mr. Marlowe: "I move that Dr. Treece be authorized to repair the roof, even to the extent of putting on a new roof, at the hatchery at Ronan." Seconded by Mr. Boyd. Carried.

Chairman Marlowe suggested that the Commission hire a man to plant eyed eggs in the isolated places to where the regular fish messengers cannot go. He suggested that they get a man who had studied, or would study, such work.

Motion by Mr. Marlowe: "I move that Mr. Schofield and Dr. Treece be authorized to select a man from each of their forces for the purpose of hav-

ing him become expert in the planting of eyed eggs in the isolated fishing waters of the state, and that these men become proficient enough to carry on this work next spring." Seconded by Mr. Boyd. Carried.

Mr. Marlowe advised that Deputy Game Warden Morgan had requested the closing of McCabe creek, in Powell county, tributary to Dick creek, to fishing for an indefinite period.

Motion by Mr. Marlowe: "I move that we close McCabe creek in Powell county, tributary to Dick creek, to fishing for an indefinite period, the order to be effective November 1, 1928." Seconded by Mr. Boyd. Carried.

Mr. Marlowe advised that the citizens of Missoula county desired the closing to fishing for bass several clear water lakes in that county, to-wit: Inez, Alva, Salmon, Seeley, Placid and Rainy.

Motion by Mr. Marlowe: "I move that the clear water lakes, to-wit: Inez, Alva, Salmon, Seeley, Placid and Rainy, in Missoula county, be closed to fishing for bass for a period of three years, beginning November 1, 1928, and ending November 1, 1931." Seconded by Mr. Boyd. Carried.

Mr. Marlowe read a letter from the Benson Pheasant Farm, giving quotations on Mongolian pheasants, but nothing was done about the matter.

Mr. Marlowe advised that the purchase of a pump at the Missoula hatchery would be necessary.

Motion by Mr. Moore: "I move that Mr. Marlowe be instructed to purchase the necessary equipment for a pump at Missoula, without too great expense." Seconded by Mr. Boyd. Carried.

Mr. Marlowe read a letter from the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries, wherein they advised that hereafter when they receive applications for brook trout from citizens of Montana they will submit applications to our department for our departmental approval before filling the applications.

Mr. Marlowe advised that he had conferred with Austin B. Middleton, warden of the state penitentiary, relative to buying dies and having the state prison make signs for this department for posting. The matter was tabled until the next meeting, when the Commission should hear from Mr. Middleton relative to costs, etc.

Mr. Marlowe presented a lease, free of charge, from the Anaconda Copper Mining Company for grounds for grazing purposes in Powell and Missoula counties.

Mr. Marlowe advised the Commission that there is a man on Post creek who has built two excellent rearing ponds. He wishes to take small fish for the state and raise them, to be divided evenly between him and our department when grown. He will feed them and care for them until they are large enough to plant. Mr. Marlowe suggested that the department take 100,000 natives from the Station Creek hatchery and put them in his ponds, and when they are grown plant them in Flathead Lake.

Motion by Mr. Moore: "I move that we go ahead with this experiment, as suggested by Mr. Marlowe." Seconded by Mr. Boyd. Carried.

Sportsmen and Duck Factories



M. D. Chatfield

MONTANA'S State Fish and Game Commission has demonstrated without question to sportsmen of the Treasure State, the wisdom of comparatively slight expenditures in planting artificial duck food in the pot holes and lakes of communities frequented by migratory water fowl. Duck hunters of the state have enjoyed the best shooting in years because of the growing duck food and the fact that ample water during the spring and summer seasons have fortunately kept these ponds filled. In addition to the work of the State Commission, further possibilities along duck propagation lines, are open to wild life enthusiasts of Montana by making possible the creation of artificial duck factories—the establishing of small artificial ponds where the back water from irrigation ditches and spring freshets may be stored.

Montana is on the natural line of flight of migratory water fowl from the Canadian north over the Bear River marshes in Utah on their way southward when the shooting season opens. If sufficient food and ponds are available ducks in flight will spend some time in the state. In any event, with these ponds and food provided, the native ducks hatched and raised within the state, will linger longer.

M. D. Chatfield, well known Helena sportsman, has demonstrated the possibilities of creating these ponds. His example may well be followed by other land owners whose property is so located that surplus irrigation waters may be impounded during the spring and the ponds supplied with duck food.

The Cedar Hollow farm owned by Mr. Chatfield, is about 15 miles from Helena, on the line of flight between Lake Helena and Lake Hauser. Here he has gone to considerable expense in building artificial dykes and planting duck food. The result is that he now has three splendid ponds which have become prolific producers as "duck factories".

But let Mr. Chatfield tell the story of how the duck ponds were formed: "In 1919" said Mr. Chatfield, "We attempted an experiment. We planted a sample of sago pond weed, wild celery and wapato, (Duck Potato). The material which we had planted was inspected in 1920 by representatives of the United States Biological Survey, who reported a remarkable growth.

"In 1920 we built one dam 250 feet long, which gave us about one acre and a long narrow pond, also 500 feet which provided another pond covering

about four acres. In addition we had a round pond. All of these were heavily planted with Sago Pond Weed, Leafy Pond Weed, Marsh Grass, Water Pepper, Star Grass, Duck Potato and Wild Celery.

"All of these duck foods grew so well that the following year another dam was constructed 700 feet long forming a lake 800 feet long with an average width of 100 feet. Seed from the first two ponds was carried ashore by waves and was used to plant the third pond, with the result that tons of duck food are now to be found in all the ponds.

"Nature did her part. What was originally a shore lined with iris, the bulbs of which had been dormant because of lack of moisture, were replaced by cat tails, bullrushes and other foods which make for cover for young ducks to hide from Hawks and other natural enemies.

"So inviting have the lakes become that ducks of all kinds nest in the sagebrush around the ponds. Even red heads, canvas backs and bntter balls, which ordinarily nest further north, find these lakes a place in which to raise their family. Rails, Coots, Snipe, Avocet and the now rare Cinnamon Teal, are among the tenants of the feeding grounds.

"I can not say too much in recommending to anyone who wishes to plant duck and fish food, that they secure advice from Clyde B. Terrell of the Terrell Aquatic Farm at Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

"A check of 38 ducks killed one morning showed 32 canvasbacks, the necks of which were full of sago pond weed tubers. I choked one drake and made him spit out 15. I figured I had killed the overhead pond expense on that one shot for I had paid 9 cents apiece for the seeds on that kind of tuber two years before.

"It is almost impossible to chase ducks from the Cedar Hollow preserve. They fly from one pond to another and start feeding. The top feeders are small footed ducks. They stand on their heads, while the deep feeders are on the bottom pulling loose the tender shoots and tubers while Mr. Bald Pate and Mr. Butter Ball wait for the delicate morsels to come to the surface. I believe that is why Mr. Ruddy or Mr. Butter Ball is always so fat. He has Mr. Canvas Back, Mr. Red Head, and Mr. Blue Bill waiting table for him. I have seen eight canvasbacks set their wings and hit water without making a circle and before I could step from the blind they were all under the water feeding.

"Any farmer who has a location, the available water and the desire to increase Montana's wild life may accomplish just what I have done at this little farm close to Helena. The small cost of aquatic plants can not help but be repaid in labor and money expended

by watching the ducks come in the fall of the year.

"Another angle of the situation which must be considered is that shooting hours must be short. Time must be given to visitors to rest and eat. The ducks must be unmolested at certain hours if you desire them to thrive and stay."

During the legislature of 1921 Mr. Chatfield was a member of the lower house from Lewis and Clark county and was vice-chairman of the fish and game committee. He worked diligently for the passage of House Bills 9 and 14. H. B. No. 14 created the present commission. H. B. No. 9 made changes in the game laws which closed the chicken season for two years and sponsored the present commission.

Above his desk hangs a significantly engraved document which reads as fol-

lows: "Permanent Wild Life Protection Fund of America hereby awards to M. D. Chatfield its certificate of honorable mention for valued service to the wild life of Montana rendered in the legislature of 1921 in promoting the passage of a new game act. Dated New York, June 15, 1921. Signed by W. T. Hornaday, W. D. Heyburn and Clark Williams as trustees."

GARDEN SASS

"That florist surely keeps in touch with his slogan, 'Say it with flowers'."

"What's his method?"

"Well, I know he has sent a bunch of forget-me-nots with each bill."

A young woman in our town recently remarked: "If I had my choice between two evils, I would marry the one with the most money."

SMILE

Even though your heart be sad,
Try to smile, pretend you're glad.
Troubles won't seem half so bad,

If you smile.

When you're feeling very blue,
No one seems to care for you,
Here's the best thing you can do—

Try to smile.

Life is what you make of it,
Sorrows, joys, of each a hit;
You can make the best of it
With a smile.

THE COURTSHIP

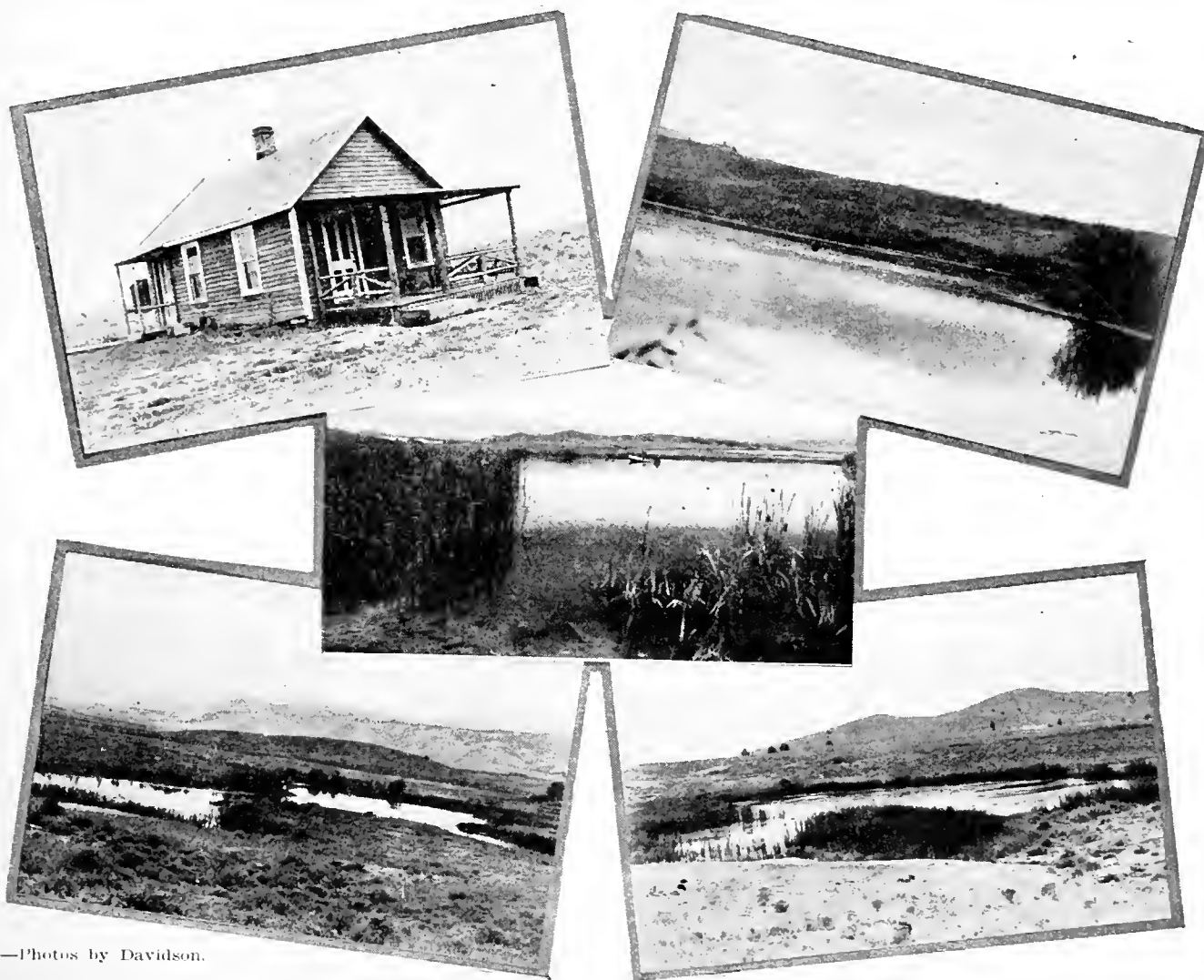
Rastus: "Why don't you take me?"

Viola: "Cause yo' ain't ast me."

"Well, now I asts yo'."

"Well, now yo' has me."

A Montana Sportsman's Duck Factory Near Helena



—Photos by Davidson.

Upper Left—The comfortable cabin, arranged with all the comforts of home, stands on the hilltop above the trio of duck ponds. Upper Right—Views of wild ducks, natives of Montana, which are hatched and reared on these ponds, may be seen. They are carefully preserved by being provided with ample selected food and watched over during the days preceding the hunting season by a veteran caretaker.

Center—Here's a splendid view of one of the larger ponds, showing the boat, the heavy growth of cat tails, tules, rushes and surface weeds.

Lower Left—Panoramic view of the three ponds created by artificial means on the Cedar Hollow farm of Mr. Chatfield.

Lower Right—Here's another pond, filled with artificially planted duck food and a natural nesting, resting and breeding area.

MONTANA STATE FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS.

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DESTRUCTIVE DEVICES

WHILE such restrictions as bag limits, prescribed methods of taking fish and game, and other regulations, are not sufficient in themselves to rehabilitate wild game life in this country and while propagation and restoration methods are more effective, yet certain restrictive regulations are necessary to prevent wholesale and ruthless slaughter by lawless and unprincipled persons.

The argument is frequently heard, "Why any restriction on method of killing fish? Your bag limit limits the catch. Why not let the fish be taken by any method?" The answer is: unsportsmanlike and destructive methods of killing fish and game reduce the supply so rapidly that bag limits would not prevent rapid depletion; for instance, dynamiting fish, killing them with lime or other deleterious chemicals, trapping, netting, and similar methods have been prohibited by law as extremely destructive. Use of the spear should be permitted only for killing such predatory species as carp and should never be allowed for killing game fish under any circumstances.

Sportsman-like methods of taking fish and game will give the fish and game a chance, which can hardly be said of gang hooks on artificial baits. A single hook on a plug gives the fish a decent show. Barbless hooks do likewise.

MICHIGAN STUDYING DUCK MIGRATIONS

THE Conservation Department of Michigan has undertaken during the past season to trap and band a large number of wild ducks, particularly black ducks, for the purpose of ascertaining as far as can be done facts regarding their migration. The black duck has displaced the mallard as the important species of interest to sportsmen in many parts of Michigan. Many of these ducks breed in Michigan marshes. Other species, such as blue bills, red heads and canvas backs make occasional stops in Michigan waters on their semi-annual flight. Michigan desires to know where the ducks go that are bred in that state and whether they return after wintering or summering in some other region.

The work of the Michigan Conservation Commission is supplementing that of the Bureau of Biological Survey. Dr. Miles D. Pirnie, Ornithologist, of the Michigan Commission and his staff are carrying out the details of this work.

THE MONARCH OF THE CRAG

ONE of the finest bits of nature photography that is strictly Montana is shown on this month's cover of Montana Wild Life. The actual photograph of the mountain goat was snapped by Charles L. Sheely of Spokane Daily Chronicle, while gunning for Montana game with a camera. Mr. Sheely has for years been a sincere supporter of fish and game conservation and both Mr. and Mrs. Sheely are lovers of out of door sports. Mr. Sheely has been intimately associated with the Izaak Walton League and its success and has had much to do with increased game conservation in eastern Washington and northern Idaho for many years.

BONDING FOR SPORTS

Montanans always have been united in one respect. They are strong for protecting our fish and game and maintaining the name of the state as a paradise for sportsmen. Yet the expenditure of this state is hardly a marker to what is proposed in Illinois.

Illinois does not often do things by halves, according to the St. Louis Post Dispatch. This is illustrated by the novel proposal upon which the people of that state recently voted to issue \$20,000,000 of bonds for the promotion of fishing and hunting. What Illinois has in mind is the Pennsylvania plan, by which fishing and hunting in the Keystone state have been restored to an almost primitive condition. Deer and bear are more plentiful in Pennsylvania than in most of the Rocky mountain states. Fishing is better than in any other state east of the Mississippi river. Illinois plans to buy hunting and fishing ground, which will be stocked and opened to the public under regulations. Illinois asked the people to advance the \$20,000,000, which she proposes to repay out of hunting and fishing licenses. The legislature has authorized a vote on the subject.

The American people seem definitely to have set their faces toward democracy in hunting and fishing. All the state and national movements have as their primary object making these sports available to everybody, in opposition to Europe's policy of confining them to the privileged few. There has been before congress for some years a bill which would establish public shooting grounds and sanctuaries. This measure designs chiefly to save marsh lands which would otherwise be drained, also one of the purposes of the Illinois bond issue. In Missouri, where the movement has spread rapidly in the last few years, the state has purchased only uplands, most of them around the big springs in the Ozarks. No marsh lands have been taken over, but some will be when Missouri's horizon in this matter widens.—(Helena Independent.)

SOME OF 'EM ARE THAT WAY

It seems that a young Montana Sportsman found himself stranded in the woods with a gun and only one bullet. His story runs something like this:

"When I found that my salvation depended upon my one bullet I decided to use all precaution. Suddenly as I was walking along the bank of a river, I saw eight ducks flying in a straight line. Taking careful aim I fired, the bullet passed through the heads of all the ducks, killing them instantly. As the ducks fell they broke a dead limb from a tree; this limb hit a moose on the head and killed it; the moose in its death throes kicked a rabbit; the rabbit came sailing through the air, knocked me into the stream, and I came up with my pockets full of fish."

Hungarian Partridge in Oregon

By HAROLD CLIFFORD

THE meager information on the breeding in captivity of the European Gray or Hungarian partridge, as they are generally called in this country, has been somewhat misleading. Some authorities claim it cannot be done, going so far as to say: "Attempts to breed the partridge in confinement have been a uniform failure."

An English sportsmen's magazine says: "The partridge cannot be reared in pens as can pheasants. From the very habits and nature of these birds, such treatment is quite impossible. Their proper food can only be obtained under natural conditions."

The greatest problem confronting the partridge breeder is the proper mating of the breeding stock. This brings up the question of how to distinguish the sex. Here again authorities differ. The idea that a partridge showing a brown horseshoe on the breast is a cock is not infallible, as many hens, especially old ones, will have well developed horseshoes.

Referring to *American Field*, November 14, 1925: "All birds with perfect horseshoes on the breast are not always cocks. Season of 1927 at the Corvallis farm a 'cock' bird with a perfect horseshoe laid eggs."

The best test is that the cock bird has more reddish brown color on the wings.

The male has a more masculine head, stands erect, is usually larger and shows more cinnamon in his markings.

Sometimes 85 per cent of the birds can be distinguished readily, while the remaining 15 per cent keep the best of us guessing.

Similarity in plumage precludes a law protecting the female only of the species. Such a law would not be practical, however, as in the wild state the Hungarian partridge pairs off, while the pheasant does not. Both the male and female partridge are most devoted parents, sharing equally in incubation and in the brooding and care of the young. As much has been incorrectly claimed for the pheasant; nature never intended that the gaudy and conspicuous cock pheasant lacking in the protective coloration of the cock partridge should assist in maternal duties.

The surest way to mate Hungarian partridges is to let the birds themselves select their own mates.

This can best be done by holding the breeding stock all in one flock in the alleyways (as to the Corvallis farm) and when the time comes to "choose partners" usually about the 10th of January, all gates to the small pens should be left open, and the birds watched quietly for some time. Whenever a pair are observed off by themselves, shut the gate on them. If, after they discover they are isolated, they do not call back and forth with the main flock, you have a mated pair.

EXPRESS YOUR VIEWS

COLUMNS of MONTANA WILD LIFE are open to every sportsman in the state for the expression of views regarding fish and game conditions. Publication of an article does not necessarily mean that the writer reflects the views of the Fish and Game Department, but frank, honest discussion is good for the cause. Communications and timely articles, as well as unusual photographs, will be welcomed. The other feller may be keenly interested.

An English magazine devoted to game propagation says: "It is now an accepted fact that partridge pair for life."

We have an actual proof that this is not a fact. At the Eugene State Game Farm this spring a little less than 50 per cent of the 1927 leg banded breeders went back to their previous season's mates. A few pair were broken up by the loss of one or the other during the winter. Others selected young mates of the 1927 hatch, and those that did not mate up within a reasonable time were "forced mated".

Whether or not the partridge mates for life, or prefers a new mate each season, the fact remains that the addition of an extra female to a pen of mated birds creates a family disturbance that invariably ends in one female killing the other. This is in accordance with the prevailing idea that with the Hungarian the female does the courting; that the female chooses her mate.

As previously stated, the partridge pair off shortly after the first of the year, but they do not commence laying until about three months later. Unlike the pheasant in captivity, they are very secretive in their nesting habits. From the fact that they completely cover their nest with grass, leaves and dirt, their eggs are found with difficulty. After their nest has been discovered the hen has been known to lay one or more eggs in a conspicuous place near the entrance to the pen, as if to attract attention away from her hidden nest.



Antelope Feeding on Prairie

The ruse of the broken wing of some other ground nesting birds to lead an intruder away from her nest is well known, but this trick of the Hun is all her own.

If the breeding stock has been raised in captivity, are properly mated, and the breeding pens well secluded, with proper care a fair egg production should be expected.

The percentage of fertility runs about the same as with pheasants, but the young partridge mature quicker, being practically full grown at eight weeks. Bantams make the best of foster mothers, although the partridge will hatch and rear their own young in captivity, but owing to their scrappy disposition this method is not recommended. As an experiment last season a pair of Hungarians were given nine pheasant eggs, eight of which were hatched and seven raised to maturity.

Up to the present time, practically all Hungarian partridge liberated in the United States have been wild, trapped imported from Europe, but the number available for importation each year is far short of the demand. To meet this constantly increasing demand the artificial propagation of this wonderful game bird, both by state game departments and by private game breeders, will be studied and perfected as times advance, until this country is able to supply its own needs, as we are now doing with pheasants. Additional argument in favor of propagation is the fact that the liberation of imported stock has not in every instance proved successful. But few dealers still will guarantee true pairs, and fewer still will guarantee safe arrival at your express office. It is quite certain better results will be obtained when birds raised in captivity are liberated.

About the only complaint made so far against the Hun is that often where small plantings have been made, those interested in the venture claim that he does not stay put. Chances are if the truth was known, he wasn't put right in the first place. Several reasons may be advanced as to the probable cause of the failures. The importer may have been a "jobber" and shipped out a lot of "bachelor birds" or liberation may have taken place long after the proper time for mating, or the shipment divided up into many small lots without regard to an equal proportion of sex.

From the fact that Chinese pheasants and Hungarian partridges live in amity together in captivity, it is assumed that they do not quarrel to any great extent in the wild state. The theory that the partridge drives out or kills off the pheasants is not borne out by facts. It has been found that in open season Hungarians, by diverting the attention of the hunters, protects the pheasants.

The Nesting Birds of Woody Island

By GEORGE E. MUSHBACH, United States Game Protector
With Photos by the Author



G. E. Mushbach

WOODY ISLAND is a dot of land, four or five acres, perhaps, in Lake Bowdoin, Phillips county, Montana, near Malta. So far as islands go, Woody, ordinarily, has nothing to commend it. It is not a beauty spot by the widest stretch of the imagination. I know not why it is called "Woody Island" unless it is because it is totally devoid of wood.

The nearest thing to wood, visible, are a few clumps of greasewood bushes in the center of the island. Inquiry in this connection brought forth that in the dim and distant past a few stunted trees adorned the island but that long ago chilly duck hunters made warming fires of

them. As it stands today "Woody" is a decided misnomer.

For about ten months of each year Woody Island is merely a sandy plot of land on the south side of the lake, rank with rushes, marsh grass, greasewood and Russian thistle, and but little populated by bird or other life. For the remainder of each year it is a hive of industry, bustle and excitement bordering on the spectacular.

In the spring, when the migrating waterfowl drift north from their winter homes in the south, colonies of white pelicans, great blue herons, and sea gulls establish themselves on Woody Island and set up housekeeping. Then is when business picks up.

Along about May or June thousands of nests of these birds are distributed over the few acres contained in this island—so thick will they be as to make it difficult to step without treading on a nest of eggs. In June, or after the hatching process is well under way, the tiny island is simply teeming with bird life, and can be likened only to

an ant hill with the young birds scurrying about like the insects.

On June 27-28, 1927, the writer, in company with "Daddy" Minugh, then deputy game warden, visited the island. On the land all was apparently peace and quiet as we approached by boat. While yet several hundred yards off shore there came to view what appeared to be huge white banks of snow. As we neared the shore line the snow banks melted away as if by magic and the air was suddenly filled with the flying forms of huge white pelicans. These giant birds rose some fifty or sixty feet in the air and soared and circled, silently with stateliness, above the island.

Upon landing we proceeded inland. Immediately the air was filled with angry birds as the gulls and herons took to wing. The gulls screamed and scolded at the top of their voices while they dashed madly this way and that not far above our heads. Mingled with the gulls were the huge floppy herons contributing to the bedlam with their



Upper Left—Flock of several hundred adult pelicans rising from Lake Bowdoin. Young herons are shown in the foreground.
Lower Left—Another flock of young pelicans on Woody Island refusing to take cover when approached by the photographer.
At Right—Young blue heron "on the peck," presenting his battlefront, defending the old homestead and cussing the photographer.

hoarse croakings. The pelicans floated above us too but uttered no sound.

Several thousand of these three species of birds formed a cloud over and about us and in their various ways did all in their power to strike terror in the hearts of the invaders of their sanctuary. In truth it was just a little awesome. Some of the flying squadron were far from genteel or polite in their actions.

As we advanced towards the center of the island, where the nests were thickest and the young birds congregated, the excited parent birds continued their wild gyrations. Gradually though, apparently realizing the futility of their attempts to rout the enemy, the old birds left us. The gulls alighted on the lake a hundred yards or so off shore on the north side, widely scattered.

The pelicans, some 500 or 600, rafted on the south side from 50 or 60 yards from shore. In close formation the great flock of snow-white birds floated along calmly and with apparent unconcern; occasionally rising in flight, but after a circle or two coming again to rest on the water.

The herons after the first maneuver seemed to feel they had done their part, and that it was useless, for they disappeared entirely and only a few returned while we were on the island.

Now was presented an opportunity to secure an intimate insight of the home life of the birds. Varied to a degree, the young inhabitants displayed an individuality almost as marked as among children of the human species. Some gave but passing notice, paying little or no attention. Others were mildly curious. Still others were evidently bewildered and wondering what it was all about. Groups plainly frightened, particularly gulls, fled in wild dismay with futile efforts to use wings that were not as yet matured sufficiently to function.

Among the baby herons were those that presented a fierce battle front, evidently prepared to lay down their lives for home and country, or at any rate were making a grand bluff at it.

One young heron, the sole occupant of a nest, was particularly belligerent. This bird was well feathered out and stood better than two feet in height. Capable of leaving the nest, which was only a few feet above the ground, he refused to budge an inch, and flight was not to be thought of. I approached to within four feet of the nest and took his picture. Extending himself (he may have been a her) to his full height, with every feather on neck, head and body rising on end, the angry youngster loudly cursed me to the limit of his heronish vocabulary, daring me

to come on, while no hostile movement in his direction would cause him to give ground.

There were about fifty nests of the herons, nearly all containing young birds. Most of these were of about the same age, some appearing almost as large as full grown birds and well feathered out. A few nests contained eggs yet and a few birds had been hatched only a short time before.

Nesting conditions of the herons on Woody Island are entirely different from any other heronies under my observation. In some sections of the country the great blue heron is reported as building nests on or near the ground, but the rule in Montana is for these birds to construct their nests high up in tall cottonwood trees on some river island. On Woody Island the heron nests are made of rushes and Russian thistles tied into the tops of greasewood bushes, the top of the nest being about 18 inches to two feet from the ground.

At one heron nest a most interesting performance was witnessed. One of a family of three, in the excitement and confusion resulting from our invasion, had tumbled from the nest. These were all large well matured birds. The gawky, clumsy youngster was struggling on the ground at the foot of the nest and making frantic efforts to



Left, Above—Here's evidently a mixup of families. Four young pelicans of different ages are shown in a single nest. One has just been hatched and is attended by a group of nursemaids. Note the unhatched pelican egg on the right of the biggest baby. Right, Above—Swarms of white pelicans circling Woody Island in Lake Bowdoin with young heron on the nest in the foreground. Below—Young pelicans on Woody Island posing for a group picture. There were about 75 in this bunch. Young herons are shown on the nests in the background with their long necks visible. —Photos by the Author.

scramble back from whence he came. Its efforts were unsuccessful and a great commotion ensued, shared by the other occupants of the nest who evidenced a lively interest in the predicament of the deposed member of the family.

One of the birds, a brother or sister, was particularly exercised and scolded vociferously as it watched from the rim of the nest the struggle beneath. Finally the heron in the nest squatted at the edge and with braced feet reached its long neck over the side and extended its partly opened beak down to the fallen relative, inserting it crosswise between the beaks of the heron on the ground, the two beaks being thus interlocked. Then commenced the tug-of-war. Both pulling with all their might the bird below, aided by the one above, tried to pull itself up the side of the nest, the heron in the nest pulling upward persistently and at the same time struggling to keep from being dragged from its perilous perch. Finally a mighty tug boosted the prodigal over the side and once again it was a family reunited.

In the juvenile pelican colony there was a greater disparity of age than with the herons and the gulls. Many were well advanced—great bulky fellows whose bodies seemed almost as large as that of the average Canada goose—clothed in a white woolly down but without the vestige of a feather. The young pelicans lumbered clumsily about in a dumb sort of way, showing but little fear or excitement. They occupied the bare sandy stretches of the island and when approached would bunch up close together in groups of from 50 to 75 then waddle off to the border of the undergrowth and huddle up like a flock of sheep but making no attempt to penetrate the cover or to hide. The pelicans were very accommodating in this respect, making excellent subjects for group photography.

But little trouble was taken by the pelicans in nest building. Mostly just a shallow hollow in the sand, unlined and without trimming or frills. Some of the nests contained young just out of the shells. The newly hatched young were ugly, grotesque little fellows, about the size of a fist, as bare as the palm of a hand, without even so much as a trace of down, and of an orange reddish color. In the scorching June sun that beat down upon their nakedness it would seem as if they must burn up.

In one nest was one of these nude babies, another about twice its size, a third one a little larger, both in the downy stage, while on the edge of the nest and partly in squatted a bulky youth seemingly on guard and acting as nursemaid. Evidently a mixup of families.

Somewhat removed from the other birds were great flocks of young gulls, about 2,000 all told on the island. One flock of about 1,000 birds fled pell-mell at our approach and took to the water. Swimming off shore a couple of hundred yards they joined the parent gulls floating on the outskirts awaiting developments. Some of the younger gulls took refuge in the grass and weeds and hundreds of them could be picked

HAVE YOU A PICTURE?

HAVE you an interesting snapshot clear enough for reproduction that will interest other readers of MONTANA WILD LIFE? If so, mail it to the editor with a letter of explanation. Each edition of the official publication of the State Fish and Game Department carries pictures of particular interest to lovers of denizens of field, forest and stream in Montana and it is the desire of the Department to continue publication of proof of recognition of the state as a sportsman's playground. If you have a clear picture of your favorite dog, upland birds, migratory waterfowl, beaver, deer, elk, antelope, or other wild life, won't you mail it to the only outdoor magazine printed in Montana?

up without difficulty. As soon as we departed from the island these gulls immediately swam back to their home.

Strewn about the island were the skeletons of carp. Lake Bowdoin abounding in these fish. Freshly taken carp, some weighing one or two pounds, were also scattered about, having but recently been despoiled by some of the bird inhabitants. Some of these carp were in the heron nests and in one was a freshly killed water snake no doubt intended for the family breakfast that had been so rudely interrupted. A careful scrutiny disclosed nothing but the coarse fishes, none of the game varieties being in evidence.

Should one visit Woody Island during the nesting time it would be well to be provided with a gas mask as the odor of putrid fish permeated the air with a perfume sweet no doubt to the nostrils of a pelican but offensive to human stomachs.

Apparently all is peace and harmony among the feathered denizens of Woody Island as the thousands of birds appeared to get along well together. A few dead birds, young and old, were

Luncheon in the Pines



—Photo by K. D. Swan.

observed but no more than should be expected from such a vast congregation of the feathered tribe. The island is a most interesting place to visit for those who are not too delicately constituted and not troubled with a weak stomach. It is not recommended, however, as a picnic ground while the birds are in possession.

New York Leader for More Game Protection

"Game preservation and protection is needed to keep up the wild game life of Montana to make it attractive to summer tourists from the eastern cities," John Warren Hill of New York said recently at Superior, after a six weeks' stay in Montana.

"I believe your fish laws are far too liberal and that the limits of catches should be reduced as a protection measure. A few fish is all that the average man needs, and a lower limit would go, I believe, a long way in protecting game fish."

Mr. Hill with his wife and daughter are on the return to New York from their "best outing" in the Blackfoot, and are coming back to Montana next year.

"We just stumbled by accident on western Montana as an outing place a year ago, came back this year, and are coming again next."

ON THE FLATHEAD

God made the Garden of Eden,
And threw the pattern away—
But a copper-hued man retrieved the plan,
And fashioned a land of play.
He took a billion dew-drops
And garnered them in a bowl,
Amid the hills and rushing rills,
He planted the Red Man's soul.
Then he summoned his pale-faced brothers—
All who uttered the password
"Friend"—
And he said, "'Tis yours—trees, tides
and shores,
'Till Time itself shall end."
—Charles Wayland Towne.

NOT FIT TO PRINT?

"John," said the gunman's wife as her husband returned after a hard day's work. "I want you to speak to little Jackie. He's been fightin' again."

"Yeah?"

"Yeah. And the little simp leaves his fingerprints all over the Moriarity kid's neck!"

Sophisticated Maid (trying to arouse the interest of an indifferent Yale senior): "Look out, Johnny, I'm going to scare you. (Kisses him.) Now Johnny, you scare me."

Johnny: "Boo!"—Yale Record.

EXPLAINED

"Why is it that Smith is so lucky at cards, and so very unlucky when he bets on the races," inquired a friend. "Humph," snorted an acquaintance, "he can't shuffle the horses."

Montana Trapshooters Among Leaders

MONTANA trapshooters are demonstrating to their friends throughout the nation that they have inherited the ability of the old west in handling a scattergun, and official averages from national headquarters at Vandalia, Ohio, show them well up among the leaders in the season's shooting. A preliminary checkup shows that 19 have shot more than 1,000 targets and that in this field E. W. (Ted) Renfro of Dell, international flyer champion, is the topnotcher with an average of .9767 on 2450 targets. Guy F. Egbers of Livingston, one of the standby members of the Helena club, is second with a fraction behind. Mr. Egbers is former president of the Spokane Gun Club and has cast his lot with Montana. He is associated with the Northern Pacific at Livingston. Montana's state game warden, Robert H. Hill, likewise is mentioned among the elect, with an average of .9225 on 1550 targets. In the compilation from headquarters the scores made at the state fair shoot at Helena have apparently not been computed.

Renfro has been a great deal more active at the traps this season than he was last year, and sports a better average, due no doubt to more practice, which men in all branches of sports will agree will do just that much. Renfro had an average of .9633 last year on only 900 targets of 16 yards. Renfro was also leading when the last figures were released from the A. T. A. office. When the Butte Gun Club held its first shoot this year Renfro was very much in evidence for the reason that he did not miss a single target in a 100-target event and led all, three breaks ahead of Nick Beirer, who shattered 97. In July at the Salt Lake Gun Club he repeated his performance at the Butte club with another 100 straight. On three occasions so far this year he has broken 98 of the singles out of 100, while on another he hit 172 out of 175 and 123 out of 125.

Guy F. Egbers of Livingston, who holds second place, has increased his average over the last published from .9583 to .9670, which is an average worth a lot of consideration. Some of Egbers' high spots this year was when he broke 196x200 at the Wyoming state, 97x100 at the Butte Gun Club in July, 195x200 at Helena, and 98x100 at Butte in April.

W. R. Wilcoxson of Great Falls rests in the third spot with an average of .9622 on 2700 targets, having bettered his figure as compared to last year, when he had .9478 on 1900 targets. He shot exceptionally well at the Idaho state meet, shattering enough targets to average over 95% on 550 targets. Although he had a good yearly average in 1927 of almost 95%, he finished far down the line in the 1000-to-2000 division. With the exception of the Idaho state shoot he shot at all of his targets in Montana.

Otto A. Schulz is another of the Treasure state experts who was busier at the traps this year than last as he has fired at 3500 targets so far this year with an average of .9572 as compared to 1900 with an average of .9184 last season, having increased his average a fraction over four points. He ranks fourth among Montana shooters to date, while when the averages were released the last time he ranked fourteenth among those over the country in the 2000-to-3000 division with a .9553 average. His score card reveals that he has one 99 to his credit and seven 98's on the 100-target 16-yard events. At the Idaho state shoot he hit 'em in tip-top style, breaking 527 out of 550 for an average of .9581.

N. J. Birrer, who ranks fifth in standing, has an average of .9556 on 1150 targets, having bettered his average by almost four points over that of last year, when he had .9178. Some of Birrer's best shooting so far was at the Sheridan Gun Club when he hit 99 out of 100 and at the Butte club with 97 hits.

Frank G. Knight has fired at about 1250 more targets up to the present time than all of last season, his average now being .9520 on 2250 targets

against 1000 for an average of .9320 in 1927. He was one of the two shooters from Montana who attended the Grand American tournament in August, doing very good on the 16-yards, breaking 194x200 on the opening day, 181x200 the second day, and 188 the third.

Charles L. Flannigan of Great Falls heads the pros with an average of .9525 on 1750 targets, three more points than the runnerup, J. R. Converse of Butte, who has .9217.

The averages of the leading gunners of the state on 1000 or more 16-yard targets to date are as follows:

	S.A.	Brk.	Avg.
E. W. Renfro, Dell.....	2450	2393	.9767
Guy F. Egbers, Livingston	1850	1789	.9670
W. R. Wilcoxson, Great Falls	2700	2598	.9622
O. A. Schulz, Sheridan.....	3300	3159	.9572
N. J. Birrer, Sheridan.....	1150	1099	.9556
Frank G. Knight, Great Falls	2250	2142	.9520
R. E. Tisdale, Butte.....	1450	1381	.9524
J. J. Robinson, Anaconda	1900	1797	.9457
Jos. Latimer, Butte.....	1650	1557	.9436
Lee J. Yealy, Shelby.....	1675	1553	.9271
Robt. H. Hill, Helena.....	1550	1430	.9225
J. A. Poore, Butte.....	1500	1380	.9200
E. J. Osborne, Sheridan	1350	1237	.9162
Reynolds Prosser, Helena	1000	912	.9120
Chas. C. Goddard, Butte	1100	1001	.9100
Fred E. Kessler, Helena	1550	1410	.9096
Art Ellinghouse, Sheridan	1150	1046	.9095
D. G. Stivers, Butte.....	1150	1040	.9043
Ed. Walker, Helena.....	1200	1085	.9041
Professionals:			
Chas. L. Flannigan, Great Falls	1750	1667	.9525
J. R. Converse, Butte.....	2275	2097	.9217

Just Browsin' Around



—Photo by K. D. Swan.

This big antlered beauty was surprised while hustling to safety along the open hillside. Mr. Swan of the Forest Service hunts with his camera, hence the buck is still at large, awaiting a session with some other Montana hunter.

ELK NEAR RED LODGE

THE HERD of 15 head of elk that has wintered at the head of Hogan creek, just above the old William Johnson ranch near Red Lodge, has been frequently seen in that vicinity, according to word taken by John Crawford to the Red Lodge Rod and Gun Club. The grazing ground of these monarchs of the forest lies about 12 miles west and slightly north of Red Lodge on the northern slopes of the Beartooth Mountains.

HEIR APPARENT

George: "Why hasn't daddy got much hair?"

Mother: "Because he thinks a lot, darling."

George: "Then why have you got so much, Mother?"

Mother (pause): "Go on with your breakfast!"

Iowa Farmers for Chinese Pheasants

WHILE Montana farmers are arguing over the merits and demerits of the Chinese pheasant, it might be well to study results achieved in other states. Iowa presents an extreme example of the crowding out of wild animal life, where once extremely abundant, by cultivation of the land. W. E. Albert, state game warden of Iowa, told the delegates at the National Game Conference in New York that even the small percentage of swamp and rugged land in that state had been made use of by farming and that there remains practically no wild cover for game.

This condition precludes the restoration of the native species to any extent, such as prairie chicken, ruffed grouse, or even the local ducks, whose nesting places have been appropriated and drained.

At this juncture, says Mr. Albert, attention was directed to the pheasant, a foreign immigrant, which was introduced in limited numbers some 14 years ago. The species is now firmly established, its greatest abundance being, paradoxically, in the most intensely cultivated sections of the state. Mr. Albert explains this by the assumption that in such sections there are fewer predatory animals than in the wilder sections to prey upon the pheasant.

Speaking of the prejudice that exists in some quarters against the pheasant as a destroyer of farm crops, this state official says he has found evidence largely on the side of the bird. Instances are cited of complaints of pheasants pulling up newly sprouted

corn. When pheasants suspected of this depredation were killed their crops were found filled with cut-worms, the real corn-destroying culprits, and no sprouts of corn. Other noxious crop-destroying insects were identified in the stomach contents of the birds.

The pheasant does eat some grain, it is true, when insect life is not obtainable, which the farmers can well afford to permit in return for the services rendered during the summer when insect life is abundant and when the pheasant prefers the insect food in preference to anything else.

Mr. Albert also said that he has not been able to obtain any evidence that the pheasant crowds out any other species or is a disturbing factor to other game birds as quail and Hungarian partridge both thrive in suitable cover, along with the pheasant. The latter is most numerous where the pheasant is most abundant.

WHAT OF THE HORNS?

Editor, Montana Wild Life:

Below is a short article for your publication, and has reference to the article, "What Becomes of Shed Horns?" appearing in the August issue:

Do only rodents chew shed horns? I wonder if that lumberjack was so far wrong in his cogitations about deer consuming some of their shed antlers. In the process of chewing many animals lick the chewed surfaces, evidently to secure the small particles loosened in the chewing. It is an established fact that deer, reindeer, elk, buffalo, and domestic cattle have been seen chewing shed horns and bones, so we should include more than rodents in the list of those animals responsible for the disappearance of shed horns. It is reasonable to conclude that all

herbaceous animals may be included in the list.

It takes a goodly supply of mineral matter to develop bones and horns of different kinds. Imagine the amount the deer, elk, and moose must accumulate to produce the antlers brought forth each year, in addition to the body fuel required to meet the activities of the rut, and the demands of the average winter season. It is thought that the minerals required for this construction are obtained from plants. Where the plants are deficient there may be a hunger for them which causes the animals to chew horns and bones or seek natural licks containing some of the minerals.

During recent years a certain amount of data has been accumulated which indicates that domestic cows, in order to produce normal calves, must be fed rations that contain a reasonable amount of calcium and phosphorus. When grain and roughage which are low in these elements have been fed under experimental conditions the breeding results have been very unsatisfactory. It has been found advantageous to feed minerals, under given conditions, to increase the flow of milk of dairy cows.

It is not unlikely that the shed horns contain food elements which the animals feel the need of and which they have not been able to secure in sufficient quantity from other sources.

SMITH RILEY,
Jackson, Wyoming.

SHOCKING

First Darkey: "Wha fo' yo' name yo' baby 'Electricity,' Moses?"

Second Darkey: "Well, mah name am Mose, and mah wife's name am Dinah, and if Dinahmose don't make electricity, what does dey make?"

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Cutting the night air, these silver ships,
Pass the full moon, and in the darkness slip,
Leaving a trail in the unknown night
Of mystery, shadows and haunting flight

TIGHT

Husband: "I like my wife in clinging gowns."

Wife: "Yes, the longer they cling the better you like them."

FAVORABLE REPORTS ON HUNGARIANS

ANNOUNCEMENT is made by the Conservation Department of New York that favorable reports have been received from various parts of the state on the result of planting Hungarian partridges. In the north-eastern corner of the state the Hungarians have been especially successful and have spread over considerable area and even north into Canada. A number of young broods have been seen in various sections. The final test will come after several years and after the birds have passed through the severe winter weather. The reports so far are encouraging.

KNEW HIS ONIONS

Lady: "I want four pounds of brown sugar two of boxes of raisins and—"

Grocer: "I'm sorry, lady, but we're all out of yeast."

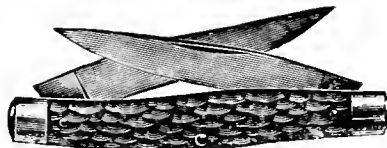
A total eclipse of the sun, over in England is a very rare occurrence. Not long ago a solar eclipse darkened the "Tight Little Isle." During the darkness a Scotchman was seen running to the telegraph office, with the hope that he could send a Night Letter.

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Montana's Game Is Worth Millions

WHAT is the actual value in dollars and cents of the wild life of Montana, the fish and birds, the big game and fur-bearing animals? It runs into the millions. Wild game and birds have a money value, which may be estimated roughly for any particular state. In New Hampshire, for example, game and birds return to the state annually a value at least of \$6,500,000, W. C. Henderson, Associate Chief of the Biological Survey in the United States Department of Agriculture, told the recent convention of the New Hampshire division of the Izaak Walton League of America. Several New Hampshires might be placed within the area of Montana.

"It is a modern practice to apply the financial yardstick to almost everything we desire to appraise," he said. "Birds and wild game have a direct economic value to the people of every state, albeit a value difficult to measure."

For New Hampshire the annual economic return of game and birds, estimated at \$6,500,000, is arrived at by adding the following items: valuations for flesh, fur, and feathers, \$400,000; for insect destroying services of birds, \$1,500,000; for recreational values, in connection with the general tourist business, \$3,000,000, and for returns due to game alone, \$100,000 from license fees and \$1,500,000 for general expendi-

tures by hunters. These figures omit reference to values from fish, which are not within the scope of the Biological Survey work. The figures are believed to be conservative.

Valuation of birds as insect destroyers is based on general surveys in the eastern states, according to Mr. Henderson. In this section the breeding bird population is estimated to average about one pair to the acre, with fully as many migratory birds spending a shorter time in each locality. Taking the nominal value of 10 cents a bird for its services in killing insects, the total amounts to \$1,500,000, which is conservative because many birds are worth much more than 10 cents for such services.

In 1926 New Hampshire issued 52,642 combination licenses to residents and 2,305 to non-residents, bringing a revenue of more than \$100,000. These 55,000 hunters put into circulation in New Hampshire for clothing, weapons, ammunition, transportation, food, lodging and personal service more than \$1,500,000. Mr. Henderson's total did not include approximately \$50,000 in fishing licenses for non-residents and a proportional sum spent by fishermen.

Mr. Henderson estimates that New Hampshire has the trade of about 300,000 tourists annually who are drawn in part by the wild life of the state.

and these bring in an average of \$100 each, one-tenth of which is credited to the attractiveness of wild life, or \$2,000,000.

Game birds are, in fact, comparatively few and do not contribute greatly to this total as insect feeders, according to Mr. Henderson. The ruffed grouse is occasionally an offender because of his habits as an apple-budder. If these birds prove troublesome the state fish and game commissioner might well permit orchardists to trap the birds for shipment to localities where they are wanted for sport. On the average the partridge's dietary wants are as favorable as they are unfavorable, and most of the insects consumed are injurious. The bob whites are beneficial. The mergansers or fish ducks may kill a few trout, but feed mainly on coarse fish and eat many spawn-eating creatures that prey on trout and other fish.

The shore birds, most of which are no longer on the game list, are not harmful and the killdeer and upland plover are markedly beneficial in their habits. The mammals such as deer, hares, rabbits and squirrels may be slightly harmful in their food habits, but are hunted to keep down the numbers and their game value more than counterbalances their depredations.

For Wild Life Sanctuaries In West



Dr. T. G. Pearson

DELEGATES returning from the convention of the State Game Wardens and Commissioners held at Seattle report great interest in the plan to establish a large system of wild life sanctuaries. A matter of paramount interest to all present was the question of what stand the conservation organizations of the United States should take in reference to the two Game Refuge Bills pending

in the lower house of congress. Dr. T. Gilbert Pearson, as chairman of the resolutions committee, after his committee had given an extended hearing on the subject, brought forward the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted:

"WHEREAS, in our opinion there exists a great and urgent need for the establishment and maintenance of a number of inviolate sanctuaries for the

protection of migratory wildfowl and shore birds; and

"WHEREAS, we believe it to be the duty of the federal government, in carrying out its treaty obligations, to make provision for the creation of such reservation areas; and

"WHEREAS, we believe that reservations of this character should be acquired and financed by congressional appropriations; therefore be it

"RESOLVED, That the International Association of Game, Fish, and Conservation Commissioners, and the Western Association of State Game Commissioners representing the official state game departments in twenty-eight states which are here present and voting, do hereby jointly endorse in principle the provisions of the Norbeck bill as approved by the United States senate in May, 1928; and be it further

"RESOLVED, That to carry out the wishes of this joint convention in the matters recited above and to represent them and other organizations interested in wild bird and animal protection, and for the purpose of representing these several organizations in other congressional efforts that may be undertaken, looking for the further protection of our wild mammals and birds, there be and there is here created the 'National

Committee on Wild Life Legislation' consisting of eleven members to be selected as follows:

"One to be appointed by each of the following organizations: International Association of Game, Fish, and Conservation Commissioners; Western Association of State Game Commissioners; The American Forestry Association; American Game Protective Association; Izaak Walton League of America; and the National Association of Audubon Societies; and that this committee so created shall have power to add to its number five additional members selected at large throughout the United States."

By a resolution of the convention, the committee was given a hearty vote of thanks for working out and presenting a plan whereby all the national organizations actively interested in wild life protection can work together as a permanent national committee on federal legislation.

Several members of the committee have met and a temporary organization has been effected, with Dr. T. Gilbert Pearson, president of the National Association of Audubon Societies, as chairman, and Seth Gordon of the Izaak Walton League of America, secretary.